

WEEKLY REPORT
Region 9
Environmental Protection Agency
Week of October 21, 2016
Superfund Division

Highlight of Past Week

Fort Ord: The Army informed EPA and CA DTSC this week that it looked like conditions were going to be right to conduct a prescribed burn in support of munitions cleanup actions. Burns have generally been conducted annually for the last 10 years to clear vegetation so munitions cleanup can be done safely while complying with habitat management plan protocols set in place by the CA and US Fish and Wildlife Services. While the conditions were not met this week, the local Air District approached the DTSC Director to request that burns not be conducted this year given the already significant smoke impacts to the community from nearby wildfires that have resulted in 8 exceedances of the 24-hr NAAQS PM_{2.5} level during May 1-August 31, compared to no exceedances in 2015. Nevertheless, the Army continues to actively monitor the weather and plant moisture content, with hopes of conducting a burn before fall/winter rains begin. The Army has several more years of burns before they can complete all munitions cleanup activities, and it is rare to find weather conditions that meet their burn prescription, so they do not want to miss an opportunity this year. The Army will need to quickly work with DTSC, the Air District, and EPA to more fully evaluate whether a burn is really appropriate this year given smoke impacts so far. While the Army's burn prescription is specifically designed to minimize smoke impacts to the community, invariably every burn has had some measurable impact as the burn smolders. (Contact: Maeve Clancy, x7-4105)

Section 9 Lease Abandoned Uranium Mine: Last week **Personal Privacy 6**, current landowner for the Section 9 Lease Abandoned Uranium Mine site, signed an Administrative Order on Consent to perform a Removal Site Evaluation of two mines near the western side of the Navajo Nation. One of the two mines is considered a priority for the Tribal Lands Cleanup Section, because of its proximity to and potential effects on the Little Colorado River. **Personal Privacy 6** has agreed to perform the evaluation on their land and on neighboring Bureau of Reclamation property. (Contact: Amanda Pease, x2-3068)

Triple Site (Sunnyvale, CA): EPA is the evaluating next steps for optimizing an active mitigation system at a two story apartment complex. The initial sampling results at this building showed crawlspace TCE levels of up to 20 ug/m3 and indoor air levels of up to 4.2 ug/m3. Following the installation of the mitigation system, indoor air TCE levels reduced to below the long-term screening level and consistent with background, however crawlspace TCE levels were still elevated above background - up to 1.8 ug/m3. **Deliberative Process (b) 5**

[REDACTED]

(Contact: Melanie Morash, x2-3050 or Alejandro Diaz, x2-3242)

San Fernando Valley Area 2 (Glendale and Los Angeles, CA): In response to elevated soil gas levels detected in Glendale and Los Angeles, EPA oversaw the collection of crawl space and indoor air samples at seven residential locations to determine if vapor intrusion is occurring. The responsible parties also collected soil gas samples at new locations in the neighborhood of the Los Angeles homes to identify if there are other residences with the potential for vapor intrusion. Additional crawl space and indoor air sampling will be repeated in the winter at the seven locations and at any other residential locations identified by the soil gas sampling results. (Contact: Rebecca Connell, x7-4278)

NASA Ames Town Hall Meeting: On October 19, EPA RPM Alana Lee participated as an invited speaker and panelist at NASA Ames Town Hall Meeting at NASA Ames Research Center on Moffett Field where approximately 100 people attended. The purpose of this meeting was to share information with Ames Research Center employees regarding government agency responsibilities related to worker health concerns, indoor air quality, TCE groundwater contamination plume areas and potential vapor intrusion concerns. This forum enabled the NASA Ames community to ask questions directly to the agency representatives about their roles and involvement with these important worker health issues and concerns that have been raised to the different agencies over the last year. (Contact: Alana Lee, x2-3141)

Significant Items for Next Week

Back Up Region Exercise: On October 25-27, Regions 8, 9 and 10 will hold a full scale exercise and response coordination workshop in the Region, with a scenario that will simulate a large scale, deliberate mercury contamination incident of the public transit system in the Bay Area. Most of the activity will be directed out of the equipment management facility on Harrison Street but OSCs from all 3 regions will be working together and will simulate field activities.

Executive Order 13650 - Chemical Safety and Security: On October 25, Region 9 will lead a National webinar of EPA HQ and Regional staff to discuss EO13650 implementation and next steps, especially in light of the forthcoming revised RMP regulations. On October 26, EPA will host a meeting to discuss ongoing EO13650 implementation in California. (Contact: Bill Jones, 619-235-4776)

Mercury Training and Outreach in Arizona: OSCs Robert Wise and Michelle Rogow are conducting training on mercury response for multiple agencies in Arizona. OSCs Wise and Rogow are holding training for fire departments and environmental health departments in Sierra Vista, Tucson, Parker and Yuma and for Arizona DEQ, the U.S. Air Force and the Bureau of Reclamation.

Press Stories, Significant Policy, Regulatory, or Legal Actions (2-3 weeks out)

Grant Announcements

Legislative Engagement

Travel, Training, Public/National Meetings, and Speaking Engagements

San Gabriel Valley South El Monte (SEMOU) Superfund Site - Vapor Intrusion activities:

EPA traveled to South El Monte to go door to door and talk to residents to get access agreements signed for upcoming Vapor Intrusion activities. The main focus of the outreach will be to explain the mitigation systems to be constructed in their homes. (Contact: Viola Cooper, x2-3243 and Rebecca Connell, x7-4278)

Cooper Drum, Southern Avenue Industrial Area, Jervis Webb Sites – South Gate, CA: On October 17, EPA attended the South Gate Community Environmental Health Action Team's (CEHAT) meeting. The CEHAT is a group of South Gate community members that was formed under the Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH) program. The CEHAT has listed and prioritized self-identified environmental health stressors in their community over the past year. This meeting focused on the CEHAT's action plan to address air quality by discussing possible outreach efforts and planning educational events in the coming months. (Contact: Heather Parker, x2-3112 or Romie Duarte, x4-1801)

East Bay Brownfields Projects Kick-off Meetings (Hayward and Pittsburg, CA): EPA will meet this week with project partners for the kick-off of two new projects 1) the East Bay Corridor Initiative Brownfields Assessment Coalition lead by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and 2) Future Build Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training led by the City of Pittsburg. The ABAG project will focus on brownfields redevelopment into transit oriented development along International Boulevard, and Future Build will focus on training disadvantaged adults in hazardous substances management and solar panel installation. (Contact: Nova Blazej, x2-3846)

Abandoned Land Mine Site, McGill, NV: EPA met with NDEP to discuss a possible abandoned mine land site of concern in McGill, NV. EPA OSC has performed a drive by of the site which is a former copper smelter. NDEP proposed that they approach the City and County to discuss next steps and options. **Enforcement (b) (7) (A)**

Site assessment has located a Screening Site Inspection report completed in 1990 and a Site Inspection report finalized in 1994. The site was given a "no further remedial action under CERCLA" designation in 1994. However, continued groundwater and surface water monitoring was also recommended at that time. (Contact: Eugenia Chow, x2-3160)

Exide Community Advisory Board Meeting: On October 20, from 4-6 pm, Dan Meer will attend a quarterly Community Advisory Board meeting for the Exide Technology Site. The meeting is being held at the Huntington Park Community Center in Huntington Park, CA.

30-60 Day Outlook

Other Information

Division Director Schedule: Internal Personnel (b) (2)

Internal to Region 9

Edwards AFB: DTSC Regulation Related to South AFRL and Arroyos Disputes.

Deliberative Process (b) 5

(Contact: Kevin Mayer, x2-3176)

Confidential Information